



NUMBER 25

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BUND AND MOBILIZERS WILL MERGE INTO "NATIONAL UNITY PARTY"

Kunze as the Brains and McWilliams as Nominal Head Will Try
"Americanization" of Fascism -- Bund's Newspaper Camouflages

"National Unity Party" will be the new name of the reorganized and camouflaged German-American Bund, *The Hour* learns. The Nazi Bund will merge with Joe McWilliams' Christian Mobilizers, the resulting combination emerging under the new name. G. Wilhelm Kunze, the new fuhrer taking the place of convicted Fritz Kuhn, will run the organization behind the scenes, while a non-German is to have the nominal post of heading the National Unity Party. Joseph E. ("Hindu") McWilliams, the good-looking spellbinder of the deteriorating Mobilizers, will be the titular chief of the merger, but doubts are already being expressed among the fascists of New York as to the success of such an arrangement: it is felt that Joe is too ambitious to obey all of Kunze's instructions. He is sure to have a mind of his own, and clashes between Kunze and McWilliams are held to be inevitable.

Bund's Paper Goes "Native"

As part of the merger program leading to the Bund's Americanization, Kunze is taking steps to change the appearance of his group's weekly newspaper, *Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter*. Its old subtitle, the Free American, has become the main title of the organ, while the main German name of the newspaper is now the subtitle. The most recent issues carry numerous articles not only about Nazi Germany's might and the Bund's plight but also about the "persecution" of the Christian Front and the Christian Mobilizers in New York. So far half of each issue has been printed in German, while the other half has carried English-language articles. We learn that in the near future the Bund plans to drop the German pages entirely, using English throughout.

The Hour is also informed that the Bund has dropped two of the four editions of its paper, the Philadelphia and Chicago ones, continuing their New York and Los Angeles editions. This move is explained by the shortage of funds resulting from the heavy expenses of

Kuhn's unsuccessful defense. Another reason for the paring of the Bund's expenditures is the reported drop in contributions by formerly friendly elements, who became disgusted upon learning that some of its funds were used to buy presents and move furniture for Kuhn's lady-friends.

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RICHMOND, VA., SCENE OF ALL-AMERICAN FASCIST MEETING

Conference Called for Christmas Day to Start United Front

A three-day conference of all the fascist leaders in America is called to take place in Richmond, Virginia, starting on Christmas day. Joseph E. McWilliams, head of the Christian Mobilizers soon to merge with the Bund under a new name (see Page 1 of this issue), is in charge of arrangements. He believes the time is ripe to organize a fascist united front in the United States. Invitations have gone out to the leading Christian Front groups, the Silver Shirts, James True of Industrial Control Reports, the American Nationalists, and the Ku Klux Klan hierarchy in Atlanta, Georgia. James True, the octogenarian fascist of Washington, D. C., is especially interested in effecting a united front of American fascism, but fears that personal and political differences of the various leaders involved may prove too much of a handicap (see The Hour for December 16, Page 5).

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JERSEY KLANSMEN TRY A "SUBTLER" POLICY

Flatly denying responsibility for any of the recent anti-Catholic cross burnings in New Jersey, Ku Klux Klan leader Arthur Riggs Bell of Newark informed a reporter for The Hour that his group was not planning a drive on Catholics and Jews. Interviewed in a Jersey Protestant church, where he was leading a meeting of some forty Klansmen and Klanswomen, Bell said that he and his followers were neither anti-Catholic nor anti-Semitic. Our reporter asked: "Then a Catholic or a Jew can join your Klan?" Bell answered the question with a question of his own: "Can I join the Holy Name Society or the B'nai Brith?"

Bell refused to discuss his national organization: "We have orders not to say anything about the national setup. Anyway, we are not against anything anymore. We are pro-American, that's all." Despite the denials, The Hour learns that at the Klan's meetings, not open to non-members, secret rites were conducted during which violent attacks upon the Catholic and Jewish people were made as of yore. The main idea is the same as under the old policy: to develop a "white and Protestant America." Bell admitted to the reporter that a large Klan group was being formed in certain parts of New York State, but refused to elaborate on the news. Two Jersey City detectives, disguised as reporters, attended the meeting, at which the interview was granted. They were prepared to arrest Bell and Company in case the Klansmen admitted responsibility for the burning of the crosses, which has of late terrorized the local Catholics.

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SILVER SHIRTS BECOME COUGHLINITES IN CHICAGO

Window-Smashers Take Protection of Priest's Name

The five Silver Shirts, who were recently arrested and indicted for smashing windows and painting the swastika sign in a Chicago department store, have declared themselves to be Father Coughlin's followers. In a leaflet, distributed in Chicago early in December, a mass meeting of "protest" and "defense" was advertised for Tuesday evening the 12th, to be held at Link's Hall, and the five pogromists were defined as "five followers of Reverend Father Coughlin" and victims of a frame-up. The leaflet exhorted: "Stand together -- Save these persecuted Christians from being railroaded -- Stop the frame-ups! ... Jews are Persecuting Christians. ... Meeting held under the auspices of Friends of Reverend Father Coughlin -- Chicago Post No. 49. ... Loyalty ... Courage. ... Help Free Imprisoned Patriots."

The five Silver Shirts-gone-Coughlinites are listed as follows: the self-styled "Doctor" Homer Herman Maerz; Fred M. Pokorny; Joseph Schimpf; Douglas Campbell; George Heppner. The following speakers were scheduled to appear at the meeting of "protest" and "defense": the Reverend Burton Hastings, Detroit; Father Sullivan, New York City; Raymond Joseph Healy, of New York and Miami, who was advertised as "author, writer, lecturer and editor"; and Francis Parker, allegedly "of the University of Virginia, noted International Law Authority." While Healy is notorious as a fascist in frequent clashes with the law (for his court record see The Hour of September 23 and August 30), less is known of Francis Parker. In fact, so little is known of Parker that not even the University of Virginia, a connection with which he so proudly claims, has ever heard of him.

The meeting of December 12 proved to be a complete failure. Of the advertised speakers, Healy alone appeared. Unadvertised, there spoke William Wernecke, a violent Bundster of Chicago. The audience consisted of some forty people, and the collection for the defense reached the sum of \$23.75. This is surely insufficient to pay the fees and expenses of eight lawyers, so far hired to defend the window-smashers, but there seem to be other, ampler funds, the origin of which is, however, kept secret.

"Dr." Maerz, the leader of the Shirts-Coughlinites who heads the list of the defendants, is known for his open connections with the Nazi Bund. Bail for him was provided by Nazi Wernecke who later, when the bail was raised to a higher figure, became so angry that he hit a policeman, creating a turmoil in the jury room, and thus causing his own arrest and conviction. Wernecke on more than one occasion boasted of his trips to Detroit to confer with Father Coughlin personally. The office of the State's Attorney assured our Chicago correspondent that it has enough evidence and witnesses to convict the five Nazi agents who formerly called themselves Silver Shirts but now resort to the help of Father Coughlin's name.

Despite all the evidence to the contrary, Coughlin still claims that he has no organization in Chicago.

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO AMERICANS FROM NAZI PROPAGANDISTS IN HAMBURG

Fichte-Bund Mails Special Letter and Sends Hitler's Photograph

Americans in New York and other U. S. cities received last week a letter, dated "Christmas 1939" but postmarked November 28, 1939. It is mimeographed on the official stationery of the notorious Nazi propaganda machine in Hamburg, the so-called Deutscher Fichte-Bund (for our previous data on the Fichte-Bund see The Hour of November 25, pages 1 and 2). The letter is addressed to those Americans who are on the Nazis' list of their supposed sympathizers outside the Reich. It carries the following Christmas message:

"Dear Friend, At all times Christmas has been in Germany the season of good will and peace. But in this year we have been deprived of peace... Although peace has been taken from us the joyful spirit of Christmas is something which we won't let ourselves be denied. On the contrary, our joy has increased a thousandfold this year, and our gratitude toward the good Lord for the wonderful protection of our beloved Fuehrer at Munich cannot be expressed in mere words."

That Americans, too, would have something tangible, with the help of which they could thank the Lord for Hitler's rescue, the writer of the letter hits on the idea of a practical enclosure. To quote: "Please do me the favor to accept the little picture enclosed herewith as a very small token of our gratitude and appreciation for the friendship and cooperation which you so kindly extended to us in the past." The picture shows Hitler delivering his speech to the handpicked Reichstag on January 9, 1939, the idea apparently being that, if the Americans cannot for the time being have the benefit of Hitler addressing a handpicked U. S. Reichstag, they may at least enjoy the sight of the dictator on a piece of cardboard. One wonders, however, whether Hitler himself would approve the adjectives "little" and "small" used with regard to his likeness by his propagandists.

The letter is signed by Th. Kessemeier, Director of Organization, who concludes: "We shall enter the New Year with the utmost confidence and determination! Nothing can prevent our just cause to be victorious in the end!" The name and sentiments of Oscar C. Pfau, another leader of the Fichte-Bund, even more than Kessemeier specializing in propaganda among Americans, for some reason cannot be found in this particular message.

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BERLIN TRIES TO INFLUENCE SOUTH BEND, IND.

Not even South Bend, Indiana, a town in the heart of the Middle West, is spared the recent flood of Nazi propaganda directed at America from the Reich. Our local correspondent sends word that John

Swartz, a resident of South Bend where he operates a fleet of trucks, was very much bewildered last week when the postman rang his bell to deliver a package containing some 250 pamphlets of Nazi war propaganda. The package came from Germany via Italy, and Swartz said he was at a loss to know just how his name and address had found their way to the Nazi mailing list. He turned the entire shipment over to the postal authorities who, in their turn, planned to notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation. All of the pamphlets were in simple and rather forceful English. Many contained violent attacks upon the Jews and democracy.

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FEAR OF U. S. PUBLIC OPINION PREVENTED HITLER FROM INVADING HOLLAND

Reichenau Also Persuaded Dictator Not to Risk Losing Boer Sympathy

Whether or not Hitler was really preparing to invade the Low Countries, especially Holland, reliable sources inform The Hour that General von Reichenau advanced novel arguments against such a step. Hitler was reminded that the city of New York was once New Amsterdam, that it was founded by the Dutch; also that many of the leading American families, such as the Vanderbilts, the Ten Eycks, and others are of Dutch descent; and that President Roosevelt's family name itself directly stems from Holland. In view of these facts the public opinion of the United States would react quite strongly against a Nazi invasion of Holland, Hitler was advised by Reichenau.

Reichenau also used the argument that the descendants of the Boers in South Africa would not like a Nazi invasion of Holland, since Holland is the country whence the Boers' forefathers had originally come. At present, Reichenau said, these people in South Africa, although part of the British empire, oppose the British cause. Their sympathy for the German Nazis, potentially of great value to the Reich, should not be lost through any such action as the invasion of Holland.

It was this twofold argument more than anything else that stopped Hitler at the eleventh hour.

Note:

Because of the Christmas holidays, there will be no issue of The Hour for December 30. The next issue, Number 26, will come out on January 6, 1940.

